



Forest Health Protection

Pacific Southwest Region

Northeastern California Shared Service Area

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To: Deb Bumpus, District Ranger, Beckwourth RD, Plumas National Forest

Subject: Functional assistance trip to the Beckwourth Ranger District to implement a hazard tree monitoring program using the first draft of the new R5 FHP Hazard Tree Guidelines (FHP Report NE11-17).

Forest Health Protection (FHP) staff (Danny Cluck, Entomologist and Bill Woodruff, Plant Pathologist) joined personnel from the Beckwourth RD (Matt Jedra, Sale Prep Forester and Eric Petterson, Fire Management Officer) to review the new R5 FHP Draft Hazard Tree Guidelines and conduct a full evaluation of all trees within the Beckwourth RD Office property on December 5, 2011. The purpose of this trip was to ensure that guidelines developed by R5 FHP were fully understood by all participants, conduct and document inspections using a point based system, and to review and answer any questions regarding potential failure indicators (e.g. stem decay, root injury, excessive lean, etc.). Upon review of the written guidelines, we inspected all trees on the compound and recorded any tree that had at least a low failure potential. We also inspected trees on the adjacent private land that were within striking distance of the compound. This was the first opportunity to use the new guidelines for a hazard tree assessment and the experience provided some excellent feedback for the final guideline document.

We inspected approximately 350 trees (predominantly Jeffrey pines) and documented 105 as having at least one observable defect (including mapping their location). Those trees that were not documented had no observable hazard potential. All trees that required pruning (26 trees) or removal (23 trees) were flagged in orange for immediate treatment. The remainder of the documented trees should be monitored at least annually and after significant weather events. Tree location maps and inspection records were retained at the Beckwourth District Office.

Thirty-five trees were recorded based on only having a V-shaped forked top without evidence of any other defect associated with the branch union (e.g. inrolled or embedded bark, decay, resin flow, etc.). These types of trees are not listed as having failure potential in the new guidelines but we felt that their inclusion was warranted and are suggesting at least a "low failure potential"

Danny Cluck
Forest Entomologist
530-252-6431
dcluck@fs.fed.us

Bill Woodruff
Plant Pathologist
530-252-6880
wwoodruff@fs.fed.us

category is included in the final version. An additional 17 forked topped trees were recorded as having a moderate failure potential based on the presence of inrolled bark or associated dead sucker limbs. Eight forked trees were recommended for removal and monitoring was recommended for the remainder that had no additional defect.

The second most documented condition was the presence of dead limbs that could fall on parking lots, storage areas and walkways (26 trees). Pruning was recommended for all of these trees. Nineteen trees were recorded as having cankers on the stem (e.g. mechanical injury or the presence of dead sucker limbs). Dead sucker limbs are not identified as a failure category in the guidelines so were considered as cankers for this assessment. This will also be addressed and clarified in the final document. Five trees with cankers were recommended for removal. Finally, an additional 10 trees were recommended for removal for the following failure categories: dead tree (6), defective root system (3) and decay (1).

This hazard tree assessment utilized the first draft of the new FHP guidelines. Information obtained during this site visit will be incorporated into the next draft that is due out in January 2012. Future hazard tree inspections within administrative sites and recreation areas on the Beckwourth RD should be conducted and documented by trained personnel using the new R5 hazard tree guidelines and associated point system. Future inspections should also tally the total number of trees that are inspected, tag trees that are to be monitored and write the number on the trees that are slated for some type of treatment (i.e. pruning or removal). As always, FHP staff is available to provide hazard tree training and assistance in using the guidelines as well as setting up your hazard tree monitoring program.

If you have any questions regarding this report and/or need additional information please contact Danny Cluck at 530-252-6431 or Bill Woodruff at 530-252-6680.

/s/ Danny Cluck

Daniel R. Cluck
Forest Entomologist
NE CA Shared Services Area

/s/ Bill Woodruff

William Woodruff
Plant Pathologist
NE CA Shared Services Area

cc: Matt Jedra, Beckwourth RD
Eric Peterson, Beckwourth RD
Ryan Tompkins, Plumas SO
Forest Health Protection, Regional Office